

Reagan challenges Moscow reform

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan on Saturday challenged the Soviet Union to prove it was committed to reform by tearing down the Berlin Wall, releasing political prisoners and allowing free elections in East-bloc nations. In his weekly radio address, Mr. Reagan also said the talks had made progress in arms reduction but said only freedom could guarantee peace. Mr. Reagan did not comment on a Nicaraguan peace deal unveiled last Wednesday, or a different proposal signed by the five Central American leaders on Friday (see page 8). He mentioned Nicaragua once when calling for an end to "Soviet imperialism" there and in Eastern Europe, Afghanistan and Cuba. Referring to the Russian word "Glasnost," or openness, Mr. Reagan rhetorically asked whether recent reforms by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev were significant or merely a "public show." "The way for the Soviets to demonstrate their dedication to true openness is to tear down the wall," he said, five days before the 20th anniversary of the construction of the concrete barrier by East Germany.

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Grenade kills 8-member family

BEIRUT (AP) — A hand grenade found by a farmer exploded at his home Saturday in a northern village killing him and seven family members, police reported. Fawaz Ouaik, 48, found the grenade in his field. The farmer took it to his home in the village of Dimach, near the northern port of Tripoli, where it exploded, police said. Mr. Ouaik's sister, her fiance, another sister and her four children were killed in the blast, police said.

Iranians expelled from W. Berlin

WEST BERLIN (R) — The Western allies responsible for security in West Berlin expelled a number of Iranian officials on Saturday as part of tighter security measures in the city, an allied spokesman said. Allied sources said the move, against between 10 and 20 officials based at the consulate in West Berlin and the embassy in East Berlin, was connected with fears of guerrilla attacks arising from current U.S. military involvement in the Gulf. They said allied forces in West Berlin as well as other European centres had been on a high state of alert since U.S. navy vessels began escorting tankers through the Gulf to protect them against possible Iranian attack.

Moscow expels 3 Zaireans

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union said Saturday that it had ordered three Zairean embassy officials out of the country in retaliation for the expulsion of three Soviets from Zaire. The official news agency TASS said Zaire's charge d'affaires in Moscow was summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry on Saturday and given an official protest of the expulsion of the Soviets from Kinshasa. Government sources in Kinshasa said Aug. 1 that the Soviets were ordered out of Zaire for gathering information about Zaire's army and unions, as well as infiltrating youth organisations and higher education.

Qadhafi married Kashoggi's daughter

ROME (AP) — A published report Saturday claimed that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has married the 25-year-old daughter of Saudi Arabian oil magnate Adnan Kashoggi. Milan's Corriere Della Sera, Italy's largest-circulation daily, quoted unidentified "highly reliable" sources in the foreign diplomatic community in Rome as saying Colonel Qadhafi recently wed Nabilah Kashoggi. It said that as to the bride's family, Col. Qadhafi signed a contract to sell Libyan crude oil to Mr. Kashoggi at below-market prices. Mr. Kashoggi, once reputed to be the richest man in the world, is said to be facing financial difficulties. Mr. Kashoggi was reported to have been a middleman linked to the U.S. arms sales to Iran scandal.

Vote upsets balance in Sudanese council

KHARTOUM (R) — An independent was elected on Saturday to a vacant seat on Sudan's five-member supreme council, opening up a new crack in the ruling coalition. The Sudanese parliament elected independent Mirmajid Al Nasri to the seat previously held by a member of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). The vote tipped a balance in the council, which acts as Sudan's collective head of state.

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3 Kuwaiti tankers slip through Hormuz in surprise operation

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Three Kuwaiti tankers, flying the American flag and under U.S. navy escort, passed through the dangerous Strait of Hormuz on Saturday in a surprise operation that began just hours after Pentagon officials in Washington had said the convoy would not leave until sometime next week.

The six-ship convoy steamed north past Dubai in the southern Gulf after slipping through the Strait of Hormuz only a few hours after Iran completed major naval exercises in the narrow waterway.

"Three U.S. navy warships and three tankers were spotted 26 miles off Duha," a shipping source in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) port city told Reuters.

Reuter photographer Ulli Michel in a helicopter said the convoy was led by the tanker Sea Isle City, followed by a warship, then the tanker Ocean City, another warship, then the tanker Gas King followed by another warship.

The U.S. navy decision to sail

ships by unmanned aircraft and boats packed with high explosives.

Gulf-based shipping companies, monitoring marine communications, said all reports as of late Saturday indicated smooth sailing for the convoy — the third under U.S. President Ronald Reagan's plan for reflagging Kuwaiti ships and protecting freedom of navigation in the vital oil waterway.

They said the American warships jammed Iranian radar and kept radio silence during the 5½ hour passage through the Strait of Hormuz, where vessels come within range of Iran's coast anti-ship batteries.

Once through the strait, the escorting missile frigate USS Crommelin began broadcasting warnings to other shipping to keep at least 2,000 metres away from the convoy, the monitor said. Ships were obeying the warning, they added.

By sundown Saturday, the flotilla was reported to have passed Dubai and moving at about 15 to 16 knots on a course that would

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Soviet said to have new railcar missiles

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Soviet Union is capable of deploying rail-carried, long-range missiles that could complicate the debate over future compliance with the 1979 strategic arms limitation accord, U.S. officials said Saturday.

For the first time, Soviet SSX24 missiles have been moved from the factory producing them to rail cars from which they could travel and become part of the Soviet arsenal, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They said that it was not clear if the rockets were operational — prepared for actual firing — or were merely able to move, but that the presence of the railroad cars means the capability for deployment now exists.

In its annual report, "Soviet Military Power," the Pentagon predicted that the missiles would be deployed this year and said the weapon would be capable of delivering 10 nuclear warheads 10,050 kilometres.

The most important feature of the system is its mode of deployment — on railroad cars that could travel around the country-side, creating difficulties for U.S. spy satellites seeking Soviet targets for American missiles.

First word of the deployment came from Republican Senator Jesse Helms in a speech Friday in the Senate, and the U.S. officials confirmed that his information was correct. They also agreed with Mr. Helms that if the Soviets wish to remain bound by the SALT-II treaty, they would be required to retire older weapons systems as the SSX24s are deployed.

The SSX24, under development for more than a decade, can reportedly carry up to 10 independently targetable nuclear warheads.

A treaty provision affecting the SSX24s is a ceiling of 820 on land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles with multiple warheads.

In its Saturday editions, the Washington Post quoted U.S. officials as saying the Soviets had in fact dismantled a sufficient number of SS17 missiles, which have up to four warheads each and are comparable in range to the SSX24.

The Post quoted the officials as saying, however, that Mr. Helms' assertions of Soviet non-compliance were technically correct because the SS17 silos had not yet been destroyed, as required by the treaty.

Iranian president warns French navy

LONDON (Agencies) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei has warned France, which has a carrier task force en route to the Gulf, not to try to impose its will in the region.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, received in London, said Mr. Khamenei told reporters French warships were free to sail in international waters as long as they did not disturb shipping or engage in "adventurism."

But he said there would be clashes and France would be "vulnerable" if the French navy tried to create tension in the region.

Mr. Khamenei, who heads Iran's supreme defence council, was speaking aboard a command ship in the southern Gulf on Friday at the end of four days of naval manoeuvres, IRNA said.

Tehran Radio said Saturday the Islamic Revolutionary

Iran and Soviets discussing oil exports through old pipeline

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Tehran and Moscow have started talks about large-scale Iranian oil exports to third markets through an old gas pipeline to the Soviet Union, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said Saturday.

He told reporters in Tehran that renewed gas exports were also being considered, reported Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia.

He was apparently referring to gas exports to the Soviet Union via the 40/42-inch diameter IGAT-1 pipeline. The exports were stopped in 1979 in a pricing row.

Mr. Aqazadeh said a Soviet delegation was due in Iran later this month to discuss technical aspects of pumping oil through the pipeline to the Soviet Caspian Sea port of Baku.

Oil sources said a new pipeline would probably have to be built from Baku to the Black Sea.

Mr. Aqazadeh said about 70,000 barrels per day (bpd) could then be sold to foreign markets.

He said Iran was seeking to diversify its oil export channels and also wanted to pipe oil direct to the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

Most of the exports from its 2,369 million bpd Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production quota are now shipped from Kharg Island in the northern Gulf, which has proved vulnerable to Iraqi air attacks.

Mr. Aqazadeh accused Kuwait of breaching its OPEC quota and called on all OPEC states to

abide by the group's rulings and not undermine the market.

If nothing unusual happens, the oil market will rise by two dollars by the next OPEC meeting, due to be held in December, he said.

Mr. Aqazadeh also said a French government request that French companies refrain from buying Iranian oil has no impact on Iran's oil sales.

Mr. Aqazadeh said the French decision on Friday to halt imports of Iranian crude — about 168,000 bpd in June — was "unimportant... France has no effect on Iran's oil market."

He said Iran had a large number of long-term oil contracts and there was "not much space for further Iranian oil sales this year."

The talks to transport oil by the old gas pipeline, hinted at in July by Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, follow an improvement in Soviet-Iranian relations.

A joint statement issued on Aug. 4 after a visit to Tehran by a senior Soviet delegation said agreement was reached on implementing "large-scale projects of mutually beneficial economic cooperation," the Soviet news agency TASS said.

Sections of the IGAT-1 pipeline are believed to be in poor repair and the line is also used to pipe gas to Iranian cities.

IGAT-2, a 56-inch diameter pipeline parallel to IGAT-1, was completed from the big Kangan gas field in southern Iran as far as the central city of Isfahan in late 1985.



A U.S. navy helicopter trails a minesweeping device in the Gulf

Iraq: Mecca riot part of Iran plan to foil peace bid

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's Defence Ministry said Saturday that last week's violence in Mecca was part of a plan by Tehran to foil a United Nations resolution to end the Iran-Iraq

conflict.

They said the American warships jammed Iranian radar and kept radio silence during the 5½ hour passage through the Strait of Hormuz, where vessels come within range of Iran's coast anti-ship batteries.

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(Continued on page 3)

King pays tribute to Camille Chamoun

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent a cable to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel expressing condolences over the death of former President Camille Chamoun, who was finance minister in the present cabinet.

In his cable, the King paid tribute to Mr. Chamoun's services to Lebanon and said the late leader "devoted his life in the services of the nation."

"I hope that the Lebanese people will live in harmony and fulfil of the mission initiated by Mr. Chamoun," the King said.

AP adds from Beirut: Pallbearers carried the casket containing the body of Mr. Chamoun through east Beirut on Saturday as thousands of mourners marched behind.

The casket, draped in the Lebanese flag, was borne from Saint Georges Hospital in east Beirut to a church in the northern suburb of Antilias pending a state funeral scheduled for Sunday.

Mr. Chamoun died Friday of heart failure at the age of 87.

His two sons, Dory, 55, Dany, 53, walked behind the coffin accompanied by right-wing militia chieftain Samir Geagea and other Christian leaders.

Dr. Geagea's "Lebanese Forces" militiamen, armed with automatic rifles, guarded the mourners' 10-kilometre march to the Antilias Maronite Catholic church (See page 2).

Some women dressed in black watched from balconies as the mourners proceeded.

President Gemayel, a Maronite like Mr. Chamoun, has ordered one week of mourning for the former head of state during which

funeral scheduled for Sunday.

Mr. Chamoun also was a member of Lebanon's 99-seat parliament. His death brought to 18 the number of vacancies in the one-chamber house, which was elected in 1972.

Sixteen other parliament deputies have died since the civil war broke out in 1975 and another seat was vacated when Deputy Gemayel was elected president in 1982.

The leftist daily paper As Safir, a reputed opponent of Mr. Chamoun's policy, said his death "ended an era in the history of Lebanon and the (Middle East) area."

Reagan gives Congress pledge on covert actions

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan has committed himself to notifying congressional intelligence committees "within two working days" of the commencement of U.S. covert operations "all but the most exceptional circumstances."

The agreement culminated negotiations between White House officials and congressional representatives stemming from the Iran-contra revelations of a lack of notification of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran. It was described in a letter from Mr. Reagan to the chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. The letter was released on Friday.

The measure would focus on the threat posed to peace in the region by the continuing war between Iran and Iraq, TAP said.

The news agency did not specify when the proposal had been sent to 20 member countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. It said some members "had already responded favourably."

The news agency did not provide a date for the proposed meeting.

TAP said Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mahrouk called in the heads of Islamic diplomatic missions and conveyed President Habib Bourguiba's views about the dangerous situation in the Gulf.

The minister also praised the Saudi authorities' firm handling of the clashes in Mecca.

Manila buries slain minister amid continuing violence

MANILA (Agencies) — President Corazon Aquino joined mourners at Saturday's burial of Cardinal Jaime L. Sin, urged a speedy solution to the killing, the latest in a string of unsolved crimes in this increasingly violent nation.

"He would have died in vain if justice is not done," said Cardinal Sin, whose own residence was the target of a grenade attack last month. "This is the task that the officialdom must address."

On Saturday, police detained for questioning in the Ferrer murder were shot and killed last Sunday as they left services at the same church. Mr. Ferrer was the first cabinet member ever assassinated in the nation's turbulent history.

The 70-year-old Ferrer and his driver were shot and killed last Sunday as they left services at the same church. Mr. Ferrer was the first cabinet member ever assassinated in the nation's turbulent history.

Manila newspapers on Saturday carried photographs of the man, who investigators said looked similar to police sketches of one of Mr. Ferrer's assassins.

Two other suspects detained

for questioning by police after the murder were freed on Wednesday after police said they had no clear evidence against them.

Mr. Ferrer's assassination was the most spectacular in a series of unsolved bombings, kidnappings and killings which Mrs. Aquino has described as the gravest challenge facing her country's fragile democracy.

In the latest reported violence, two gunmen late Friday shot and killed a Philippine constabulary soldier in suburban Pasay City as he left his home.

More than 50 people and soldiers have been killed in the Manila area this year. Communist rebels are believed responsible for many of the killings.

In Cebu City, 560 kilometres to the south, two motorcycle-riding attackers buried a grenade late Friday at the home of Philip Tiongco, president of the local chamber of commerce. Police said there were no injuries, but Mr. Tiongco's house and car were

riddled with shrapnel.</p

'Chinese arms sales boost Iranian missile stockpile'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran probably has increased its arsenal of Silkworm anti-ship missiles while purchasing estimated \$1 billion worth of weapons so far this year, U.S. intelligence sources say.

Top Defence Department officials have just been provided with a new assessment of Iranian arms dealings for the first seven months of 1987, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

U.S. intelligence agencies earlier this summer estimated that Iran had about 48 of the Chinese-built Silkworms, which Pentagon officials consider one of the biggest threats to U.S. convoy operations in the Gulf.

That estimate now has been increased because of evidence that a new batch of the missiles was included in recent arms packages purchased from China, the sources said Friday. They said Iran could have as many as 100 Silkworms.

The sources said there is some evidence that China may be reducing its dealings with Iran.

China has repeatedly denied the weapons sales.

But at least for the period from January through July, China continued to stand as Iran's largest weapons supplier, providing an estimated \$400 million worth of arms. Besides the Silkworms, the deliveries included multiple rocket launchers, artillery pieces and anti-aircraft missiles, the sources

porting requirements of the 1973 act.

The act requires that the president send a written report to Congress within 48 hours after troops are sent "into hostilities or into situations where imminent involvement" is indicated. The troops must be withdrawn within 60 days unless Congress authorizes them to stay.

The Silkworm, based on an older Soviet design, is built by China as a mobile missile that can be fired from land against nearby ships. It has a range of roughly 80 kilometres.

According to the sources, Iran has established launch positions for the Silkworm in at least three areas overlooking the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow entranceway to the Gulf through which the U.S. convoys pass.

The sources said Friday that Iran also is believed to have moved some of the new Silkworms into the northern part of the country, closer to Kuwait, but they declined to identify the location.

Four bombs exploded Aug. 2 at hotels in Monastir and Sousse along the Mediterranean coast, injuring five British tourists, seven Italians and one Tunisian employee, the Interior Ministry said.

After a meeting with President Habib Bourguiba in Monastir, 165 kilometres south of Tunis, the interior minister said a preliminary investigation indicated the "criminal acts were perpetrated by elements of an extremist terrorist network."

No details were given on the number of suspects arrested "a little after ... the explosions last Sunday." The minister did not elaborate on the number of people implicated in the attacks.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Rachid Star said one person had been arrested in connection with the bombings.

"Today a great man in Lebanon has fallen ... We do hereby pledge to follow his course," said Beirut's Bishop Khalil Aidi Nader

said.

The second leading supplier continued to be North Korea, the sources said. That country provided arms worth about \$250 million, including artillery pieces, ammunition of various types and Soviet-designed Scud surface-to-surface missiles.

Warsaw Pact allies of the Soviet Union provided about \$200 million in arms during the seven-month period, primarily small arms and rifles, ammunition and transport trucks, the sources said.

Two American allies in Europe — Portugal and Spain — were next on the list, providing an estimated \$150 million in munitions and components for Iran's domestic arms industry, the sources added. The shipments from those two countries apparently included machinery components, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State George Shultz said the Reagan administration has no intention of making its Gulf policy subject to the war powers act.

Lawyers for 114 members of Congress filed a lawsuit Friday asking a federal court in Washington, D.C., to compel the president to comply with the re-

quirements of the 1973 act.

The most serious injury was to Helen Strooki, 28, of Scotland, whose foot was amputated.

There has been widespread speculation linking the bombings to recent clashes between the government and pro-Iranian Islamic fundamentalists.

Tim's newspapers on Friday printed a declaration of an unidentified government official that blamed the attacks on the opposition Islamic Tendency Movement (ITM), which condemned the bombings in a statement issued in Paris.

Tunis broke relations with Iran in March, accusing Tehran of using its embassy in Tunis to encourage violent opposition.

The Tunisian ambassador to Britain on Saturday visited Ms. Strooki, the Scottish woman who had her foot amputated after being injured in the Aug. 2 bombing.

Ambassador Hamadi Khouini said he was passing on an assurance from President Bourguiba of Tunisia that although Ms. Strooki lost a foot in last Sunday's bombing, "she has also gained a new father."

He said Mr. Bourguiba "has decided to support and look after her as his own daughter, and not only the president but the whole nation is represented by me today in giving their respects for this courageous young woman."

Ms. Strooki, 28, was on holiday in Tunisia when a bomb ripped apart the disco of the Sahara Beach Hotel in Monastir where she was dancing.

Her right foot was amputated in Tunisia because of her severe injuries.

"I thought it was quite a nice gesture for the ambassador to visit me," Ms. Strooki told reporters from her hospital bed in Ayr, Scotland.

If the court eventually decides to grant the extradition order sought by Britain, he will then have 15 days in which to appeal and legal proceedings after that could drag on for many months.

Mr. McDonald's lawyer, Elie Malocco, said Mr. McDonald would resist extradition on grounds that the alleged offenses were committed on Irish, not British, territory. Embassy premises are regarded as the territory of the nation occupying them.

The incident began when a group of about 200 ultra-orthodox marched from the orthodoxy quarter of Mea Shearim to the Beit Agnon theatre to protest the showing of films on Friday night, which they consider a desecration of the Sabbath.

The orthodox men, dressed in black suits and hats, were met by about 500 secular demonstrators, some organised by the Citizens

of the Sabbath Movement, a liberal political party. They raised signs that read: "No to religious coercion" and "Keep away the darkness."

The demonstration was broken up with no serious injuries reported. Police arrested one secular demonstrator.

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of the Sabbath Movement, a liberal political party. They raised signs that read: "No to religious coercion" and "Keep away the darkness."

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Voter card deadline set at Oct. 31

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior announced Saturday that Oct. 31 will be the deadline for submitting applications for obtaining voter cards for the parliamentary elections in the country. The three-month application process started Aug. 1.

The ministry's under-secretary, Ahmad Al Aqaleh, said that all arrangements have been made at the Civil Registration Department to fill the voters cards with information contained in the application forms.

He added that people whose names were crossed out from the voter lists during the contesting period because they had not registered in their constituency can submit applications to the chairman of the committee entrusted with revising voters lists in the concerned constituency. Evidence certifying these individuals will be collected, in order to permit the voters to register their names in that constituency.

Mr. Aqaleh called on citizens to apply for voters card as soon as possible. He stressed that nobody will be allowed to vote without this card.

Ministry sources had earlier announced that nearly 912,000 people registered their name for parliamentary elections at the 700 registration centres which opened in May.

The new electoral law lowered the minimum voting age from 20 to 19.

Government employees with travel allowance have to pay for Aqaba stay

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai issued an official communique Saturday allowing government employees on official business to Aqaba to use government-owned homes and flats, provided they pay for their stay if they get transport and travel allowances.

The communique said that rent should be paid in cash to the caretaker of government buildings in the port city and a receipt will be issued.

The communique exempted employees from paying any rent

for their stay if they do not receive transport and travel allowances for their stay away from home, provided they produce documents from their departments or ministries to prove their status.

The communique said that a special committee will be set up to determine the amount of rent to be paid for staying in government-owned apartments. This committee will group representatives of the Ministry of Finance, General Budget Department and the Audit Department and

should report on its work by Aug. 31, so that a circular can be issued about the new measures to various departments and ministries. According to the communique, the new measures will be put into force by Sept. 1, 1987.

The Prime Ministry's communique said that the new arrangements were issued because the 1981 law on transportation and travel allowances does not include regulations covering the use of government-owned homes and then letting them to civil servants.

Road safety conference to be held

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSOPRA) will hold a pan-Arab seminar on Nov. 13 on measures to reduce road accidents.

A JSOPRA spokesman said that the three-day seminar will be held in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD) which supervises traffic and pro-

vides security for the roads. The seminar will review the problem of road accidents in the Arab World and will discuss steps and techniques to deal with the problem in each country, the spokesman said.

He added that the participants will examine proposals to help reduce road accidents and discuss exchanging expertise and information.

The participants who represent institutions and agencies concerned with road accidents in Arab countries will discuss public information programmes on road safety, legal aspects of road safety, and medical and first aid procedures for road accident victims.

Body guard training part of new PSD programme

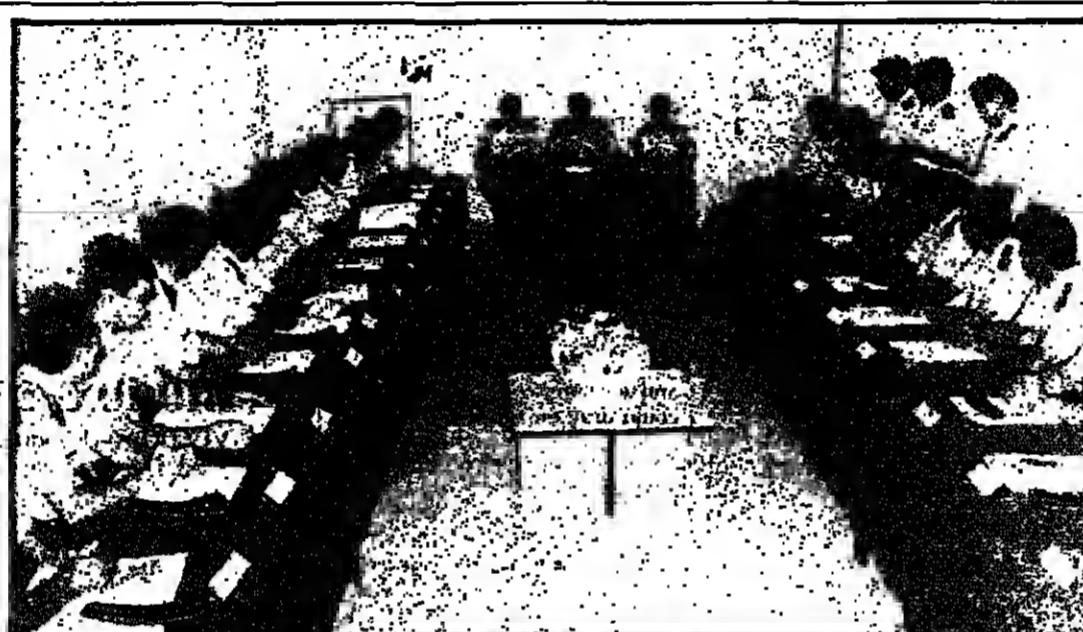
AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) is modernising its various services and providing advanced training to its personnel to better cope with the social development and security requirements. PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Majali said Saturday.

Lt.-Gen. Majali, who was addressing the opening session of a body guard training course for police officers said that the PSD wants to select the right people to train as police to help promote the work of the PSD's departments in the country.

The body guard training course is part of the PSD's new programme and plans for development, he said.

Colonel Mohammad Bassoul, director of the police academy where the officers will take their 10-day course, said that the participants will hear lectures about the duties of police officers and body guards. The lectures will include providing protection to distinguished guests and leaders attending conferences. Also the trainees will learn about supplying information about tourism and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

He said that the trainees will also undergo special military training in the use of fire arms.



Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Majali addresses participants in a special training course for body guards, sponsored by the PSD (Petra photo).

3 Kuwaiti tankers slip through Strait of Hormuz

(Continued from page 1) bring its 960-kilometre voyage to an end off Kuwait by late Sunday or early Monday.

The convoy appeared to be employing the same tactic as that used after the first convoy of U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tankers sailed through the Gulf last month and one of them hit a mine. A tanker was leading because it would suffer less serious damage from a mine than a warship.

But the Sea Isle City weighs about a fifth the size of the Bridgeton, the supertanker holed by a mine and still in Kuwait.

Agents of the three tankers said they had loaded enough food, water and other supplies on the ships to last for six months.

Shipping sources said the convoy observed radio silence when it left its anchorage off Khor Fakkan in the UAE. "Their lights were off and radios down when they sailed," one source told Reuters.

It began its voyage after U.S. Defence Department officials in Washington said the convoy "is being delayed and probably will not be run until late next week at the earliest."

They said that the convoy was awaiting the arrival in the Gulf of the light carrier *Guadalcanal*, carrying eight mine-hunting helicopters.

Diplomatic sources, noting that the tankers involved in the latest convoy were relatively small, said they would not necessarily have to sail through the narrow deep-water channel off Iran's Farsi Island in the northern Gulf where the Bridgeton was holed.

U.S. officials believe more mines may be moored to the seabed in the channel.

"These tankers have lots of flexibility. They have lots of choice of routes," one Western diplomat said.

He said the U.S. navy would nevertheless be searching for mines along the convoy's route with mine-hunting equipment it already has in the region.

The American navy's mine-

Khamenei warns French navy

(Continued from page 1)

"The IRGC speedboats made clear the vulnerability of American ships to attack," Tehran Radio said Saturday. "They were able to come close between the ships easily and, after carrying out various successful reconnaissance operations, returned to base."

The Martyrdom exercises also featured hundreds of boats fitted with recoilless cannon, missiles, radar, anti-aircraft missiles and guns, frogmen and commando attacks and the first submarine built by the IRGC, the radio said.

President Khalkhali said the IRGC made a shore-to-ship missile which he saw test-fired on Thursday as well as ground-to-air missiles which were also tested.

"The shore-to-sea missile was fired at imaginary targets and was killed at imaginary targets is the most unique missile in the world," the radio quoted him as saying.

U.S. officials believe Iran has installed Chinese-made Silkworm shore-to-shore missiles at the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf and say they pose a major threat to foreign shipping (See page 2).

The exercises were the first held jointly by the IRGC ground, naval and air wings since Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini authorised the guards to diversify from a purely infantry role two years ago.

The radio said the exercises were held not only around islands in the Strait of Hormuz but also along Iran's northern Gulf shores and the coast of the Sea of Oman.

It contended that a build-up of U.S., British and French naval forces near the Gulf was to prepare for a new version of the joint British, French and Israeli attack on Egypt in 1956.

This time, it charged, the object was to defend "Shah Fahd," a reference to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, Iranian Parliamentary Deputy Sadeq Khalkhali claimed that Saudi Arabian security forces fired 50,000 bullets at Iranian pilgrims during clashes in the Holy City of Mecca

NEWS IN BRIEF

21 loans offered by IDB

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 21 loans totalling to JD 715,000 have been offered by the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) during the second quarter of 1987 to finance 21 industrial and tourist projects in the Kingdom. The new projects will provide job opportunities for a large number of people.

Tax collection methods to be improved

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Finance has drawn up a national plan to improve tax collection methods, according to a report published Saturday in the local Arabic daily, Al Dustour newspaper. The plan, the report said, came after a comprehensive survey conducted by the ministry on the present techniques of tax collection and assessment and after another study on the amount of unpaid taxes and other fees over the past five years, amounting to several million dinars.

Industrial estate to be built in Salt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) will start work on an industrial estate in Salt at the beginning of 1988 with the aim of encouraging light and intermediate industries in the Balqa Governorate, according to a report published Saturday in the local daily Sawt Al Shaab newspaper. The total cost of the project, which will accommodate 60 factories, is estimated at JD 3.3 million.

Hungarian education group visits Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Hungarian education delegation has arrived here on a 10-day visit to Jordan for talks on bilateral relations, according to a report published Saturday in the local Arabic daily Al Dustour newspaper. The Hungarian delegation, led by the secretary general of the Hungarian Ministry of Education, will also visit Jordanian universities to discuss cooperation. They will also hold talks with Ministry of Education officials on the possibility of setting up an Arab school in Hungary for the Arab community there. The guest delegation includes representatives of the nine Hungarian universities.

Beirut students to take exams in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — End of the year examinations for students of Beirut Arab University (BAU) will be held at the University of Jordan Monday, according to university sources. They said that the examinations, which will last two weeks, will be taken by 4,000 students, studying commerce, humanities, and law. Dr. Mohammad Abdul Rahim, president of BAU, has arrived in Amman to supervise the examination session. BAU students started taking their examinations in Amman following the outbreak of the civil war in Lebanon.

Heat wave eases, slightly

AMMAN (J.T.) — The heat wave, which has affected the eastern Mediterranean region for the past week, has begun to ease. The Meteorological Department reported that the maximum temperature recorded in Amman Saturday was 40 degrees Celsius, down from 42 degrees Friday.

The department's director, Dr. Ali Abanda, said that the desert regions and the Jordan Valley of Jordan reached 44-45 degrees Friday, while in Aqaba the temper-

atures were not as severe.

Dr. Abanda said that, despite the gradual drop that is occurring, the eastern Mediterranean region will likely to receive additional heat waves until mid-September.

He said that even very high regions in Jordan, like Ras Munif and Shobak in the south, have had very high temperatures during this heat wave and the one at the end of July.

Both heat waves were caused by the flow of hot air from the

central Arabian peninsula to the north which affected high, rather than the low-lying areas. Dr. Abanda explained.

He said that the recent heat wave started Wednesday and will continue into this week, keeping the temperatures exceptionally high day and night.

Dr. Abanda said that the heat wave affected Syria, Turkey, Greece and Cyprus, in addition to Jordan.

Education teams to report next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thirty-one committees of educators collecting information about education in Jordan and preparing for a general national conference later this month are due to submit their final reports to the Ministry of Education on their findings by next Saturday, according to ministry sources.

They said that the final reports will be debated in a televised seminar scheduled for Aug. 20 to

be attended by various educators and education specialists. A working paper will be compiled

from the televised seminar to be submitted to the national educational conference which will be held under royal patronage Aug. 29, the sources added.

The 31 committees, who group 300 specialists, have been meeting at a number of centres in Amman to finalise their work.

Minister of Education Thou-

gun Hindawi had said that the recommendations from the upcoming conference will serve as guidelines for the country's educational strategy into the next century.

The Ministry of Education earlier announced that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will attend part of the televised seminar which will be held just before the beginning of the 1987-1988 scholastic year.

U of J to accept graduate applications

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan will begin accepting applications Monday from students for post-graduate study in five specialisations.

A university spokesman said that applicants can select one of the following subjects for study: documentation and library science, school management, education, translation, and Koranic studies.

According to the spokesman, applicants should hold a B.A. or B.Sc. from the University of Jordan or any other university recognised by the university and should produce photocopies of the degrees and other supportive documents.

Meanwhile, 28 post offices around the Kingdom started accepting applications Saturday for enrolment at various Jordanian universities from students

who will not be charged any fees, in accordance with a Royal Decree. This category of students has been exempted from paying university fees because they are sons and daughters of veteran army personnel.

The process of accepting applications from these students will continue this coming Friday, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Post offices were earlier open for accepting applications by any students wishing to enrol at

the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University, nearly 14,000 students have applied to enrol in various faculties. But, the sources said that only 7,000 will be accepted at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in the coming academic year. Mu'ta University announced earlier that altogether 700 students will be accepted in its military and civilian wings.

Cultural panel proposes holding of Arab folk week in August

AMMAN (J.T.) — A pan-Arab cultural meeting held at the ancient city of Carthage in Tunisia has recommended that the last week in August every year should be observed as a national folk week in which Arab citizens should display their national costumes, according to Mr. Abdul Hafiz Abu Qaoud, chairman of the National Jordanian Folk Academy.

He said that Jordan has called on the meeting which ended last week to establish a pan-Arab folklore academy. The meeting recommended that Arab countries hold seminars to discuss Arab folklore and to issue regulations for safeguarding Arab folk

and cultural heritage. Mr. Abu Qaoud said.

The meeting, he added, called on Arab universities to give more attention to Arab cultural and folklore activities and to spread awareness about Arab heritage.

Mr. Abu Qaoud, who led Jordan's delegation to the meeting, said that he held talks with heads of other delegations about cooperation between the Jordanian Academy and other academies in the Arab World.

Delegations representing Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Egypt and West Germany, took part in the meeting which was organised by the Tunisian Ministry of Culture.

The meeting was held in the ancient city as the International Carthage Cultural Festival was taking place.

Jordan participated in the festival through the performances of the Fuhais Heritage Revival Group, which also performed at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts last month.

The 34-member Fuhais group gave a total of six performances over six days, presenting, among other things, Andalusian dances, reminiscent of the past glory of Arab civilization.

The group, all amateurs aged 17 to 27, was established four years ago and has been participating in the Jerash festivals since 1984.

Panel to discuss computers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day symposium on the transfer of computer technology will be held in the University of Jordan in November. The symposium is organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation with the Paris-based World Federation of Engineering Organisations.

A JEA spokesman said that a

large number of specialists in computer engineering and computer industries will take part in the symposium to discuss subjects pertaining to the production of computer programmes, developing computer work to suit national needs, maintaining computer equipment, and manufacturing and assembling components.

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Undermining peace prospects

THE Jordanian complaint made this week to the United Nations over Israel's government-sponsored excavation beneath an ancient Islamic site in Jerusalem was the latest in a series of protests made to the world body over the Jewish state's arbitrary practices in the Holy City and elsewhere in the occupied West Bank. In the latest complaint, Jordan pointed out that the 700-year-old Madrasah Tankiziyah, the most important Islamic heritage building in Jerusalem after the Al Aqsa Mosque, has been seriously damaged by the digging of a tunnel underneath it by the Israeli occupation army which has used it as its headquarters since 1969 after expelling Islamic scholars from the site. The ancient building, which also used to serve as an Islamic supreme court, is one of the oldest Islamic landmarks in Jerusalem and is therefore dear not only to Jordan but also to the entire Muslim world. That in itself should act as motivation for the world Islamic community to move as a joint force and put an end to the Israeli moves aimed at wrecking the building. We hope that the entire Muslim world will realise the significance of Jordan's efforts in the world arena to put an end to Israel's assault on Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and rally itself behind the Kingdom and pose a formidable force against the Jewish state's endeavours and ambitions in the area.

Quite literally, the Israeli excavations beneath Islamic religious sites in the occupied territories are also digging away at hopes for an eventual Arab-Israeli peace. On the one side, Israeli leaders are talking about arriving at a peace settlement with the Arabs while on the other hand the Jewish state's government is busy trying to obliterate as much as possible of the Arab and Islamic identity of Jerusalem and the occupied territories. The Israeli actions leave little room for doubt that all the diggings and "archaeological" work around Islamic holy sites, the Al Aqsa Mosque included, are part of the Jewish state's grand designs to Judaize the area under occupation.

Those who are leading the so-called Israeli drive for peace with the Arabs should realize that their government's actions could seriously set back prospects for Arab-Israeli coexistence, and that no Muslim would ever forgive them for destroying Islam's holy shrines.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. seeking murky waters

MEMBERS of the U.S. Congress are furious because Arab Gulf states have turned down Washington's request to establish land bases for American forces on their territory. A Democrat has urged the Reagan administration to withdraw its naval fleets from the Gulf lest the United States will find itself involved in a new conflict. The United States, after failing to persuade its NATO allies to join its fleet in the Gulf, is now finding itself in a dilemma at home and faces the prospect of confronting hostile forces in the Gulf. The NATO allies have all said that they prefer quiet diplomacy to a show of force in the Gulf to defuse the situation there. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has strongly defended the American administration's policies in the Gulf and said that the U.S. presence there should be cause for optimism. Despite this American stand and the fury of members of the U.S. Congress the Gulf states should adhere to their position of denying the U.S. any land bases on their territory. These events once again expose the United States as being involved in the issue not as a manifestation of its credibility and its intention to end the Gulf war. It rather shows clearly Washington's interest in exploiting the Gulf situation in a manner that might help it impose its hegemony on the whole area.

Al Dustour: Kuwait as venue for talks

TUNISIA has called for an immediate meeting of the Arab League Council at the foreign ministers level, a move that has great significance to the joint Arab stand. Tunisia said in its call that the council should hold its meeting in Kuwait, which is now facing a hostile campaign by Iran designed to destabilise the Gulf state and blackmail the Kuwaiti leaders forcing them to stop supporting Iraq in its war against Iran. A favourable response to this call is bound to help the Arab League to regain its credibility and its functioning power, specially if the meeting comes now while major world nations were offering Kuwait protection. The Arab League should not stand by doing nothing in the face of Iran's threats to Kuwait and foreign powers' offer to provide protection to Kuwaiti oil tankers. It is indeed a very distressing situation to watch the Kuwaiti brothers facing threats of suffering at the hand of the common enemy while Arab countries stand idly by. A meeting in Kuwait represents a new endeavour to rally the Arab countries together in the face of the common threat and a response to the Iranian challenge. We view the Tunisian call as a worthwhile initiative paving the way for an all-out discussion of the ongoing Gulf conflict. A meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Kuwait would embody the meaning of solidarity among Arab countries and a readiness for launching joint action in the face of common threats.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. and its vested interests

IT has become clear now that Iran's continued threats and the world's major powers' manoeuvres in the Gulf waters are not designed to bring an end to the Gulf conflict. These moves are clearly designed to exploit the situation and the seven-year-old war. The United States, which has amassed 36 naval units and 15,000 Marines in the Gulf, is only concerned about safeguarding Western interests. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy expressed Washington's stand when he stated that the United States presence in the Gulf aims at deterring Iran from committing hostile activity against the West and the U.S. was there to protect Western interests. The United States and its Western allies are mainly interested in protecting their interests and keeping the Soviet Union away from the Gulf at any cost. They are not really interested in stopping the war that has caused so much suffering and destruction. The U.S. concept is therefore totally different from that of the United Nations and does not conform to the U.N. Security Council resolution which called for an end to the Gulf war. The United States, which seeks to protect its own interests, has been urging Kuwait and other Gulf states to grant it bases on their territory. Iran for its part continues to issue threats to the Gulf countries and so helping to create more tension and inviting the United States to maintain its presence in the region.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Silence may be divine, but not always

SCHOOL textbooks describe water as a liquid that has no colour, or taste or smell. If this scientific definition is still valid, the population of Amman were, for quite some time, drinking something that could not, by definition, be called water. The liquid that was pumped into their homes for domestic use did have an ugly colour, a bad taste and an unpleasant smell that caused wide-spread resentment.

Finally came the technical reports to indicate once more that the so-called water carried deadly dangers, prominent among them cancer, Bilharzia and amoebiasis. All this happened at the midst of official declarations printed by the press in bold letters assuring every one that the water was absolutely safe. The purpose of the announcement was to cover up the problem and avert responsibility but in the process it prevented the innocent people of Amman from taking necessary precautions to avoid or minimise the risk. The Ministry of Health maintained its silence to make the point that it does not interfere in something that is none of its business, namely the people's health.

Water is no more channelled from King Talal Dam to the East Al Ghor Canal, and the polluted water is no more pumped from the Deir Alla project to the reservoirs of Amman. Therefore the people of Amman are again drinking relatively clean water from the old wells around Amman. There is no more a reason to be afraid of pollution and we are at last able to discuss the subject from all its angles, and derive the necessary lessons free of fear of

creating more fear and panic.

First we should point out that the whole episode had no element of surprise. Since the birth of the idea of the Deir Alla project, loud voices were warning against the inevitable consequences. Laboratory analysis established early that the uncovered water of the East Ghor Canal was poisonous beyond acceptable international standards and the purifying processes were not designed to deal with such impurities. That was the position adopted by the director of the Jordan Water Authority at the time.

Unfortunately, the process of decision-making was and is still wanting. The opposing points of view had no opportunity or mechanism to block, correct or influence a wrong policy. The result was the implementation of the Deir Alla project to pump water to Amman from the East Ghor Canal at a cost in excess of JD 65 million. The project is now abandoned and must be written off. The new-found water of Mukheibet wells should not have been channelled through the East Ghor Canal from the financial, health and strategic points of view, although it was feasible from an engineering point of view.

Now that the mistake, which did cost \$200 million in external debt, is brought to the open, the health hazards cannot be evaluated at this time — heads had to roll as a price for mistakes and stubbornness.

The resignation of the heads of the Jordan Valley Authority

(JVA) and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) was not a sufficient response. Neither of them initiated the ill-fated project but they inherited it. It is not also quite fair to treat both of them equally as they represented two opposing technical points of views. The JVA director believed in the project and defended it vigorously, while the director of WAJ was sceptical and refused to take delivery of the project until he was compelled to do so by a government decision. Nevertheless, the WAJ director of course made the mistake of assuring everyone that the dangerous water was completely safe, thinking that truth was not in the best interest of the people.

Perhaps it is not too late to arrange some televised hearings to determine the facts and establish responsibility after listening to the testimonies of the experts and those responsible for promoting and implementing the project. This may be the only civilised way to overcome the problem, prevent the repetition and confirm accountability.

The "Watergate" affair was worth more attention by the media. Except for the investigative report of the Jordan Times on last Sunday, our media all but neglected the problem and left it to irresponsible rumours to either overstate or understate the affair. It is worth mentioning that the discussion of a scandal in the open restores the public confidence while a blackout would have an opposite effect.

Mecca violence seen to cramp diplomacy and open road to violence

By Michael Battye
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Bloody clashes in the Holy City of Mecca have overshadowed diplomatic efforts to end the Gulf war and raise dramatically the chances of violence sweeping through the region, private U.S. analysts say.

They say the Iranian demonstrations that sparked the violence in Saudi Arabia appeared to stem from a power struggle in Tehran which hardliners could be winning.

If the dominance of hardliners who believe in exporting Iran's fundamentalist Islamic revolution was anything more than temporary then the future would be bleak, they said.

"It could even be that if the Iranians are desperate, they would try to bring the whole house down with them," said Shireen Hunter of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a private research organisation.

Hunter, a former Iranian diplomat, and other experts said hardliners seemed to have taken the upper hand in Tehran after Washington's Iran arms scandal.

The U.N. ceasefire order provided for the possibility of further measures — which to Washington means an arms embargo — against any party refusing to accept it. Iraq said it would observe a ceasefire if Tehran did.

To Iran, it was part of a U.S. plot that included Washington's new heavy naval presence in the Gulf to protect Kuwaiti shipping, targeted by Tehran because of the emir's support of Iraq, and a U.N. Security Council order for a ceasefire in Tehran's seven-year-old war with Iraq.

President Reagan's contacts with so-called moderates in Tehran exploded last November when it was disclosed the White House had tried to swap American weapons for U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

Any thoughts of a U.S.-Iranian rapprochement were swept away by Americans scandalised that the United States should have dealt with the nation they regard as a terrorist foe. As the arms scandal unfolded, the administration adopted a tough public anti-Iranian stance over the Gulf.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman rejected Tehran's plot accusation as baseless and accused it of using the Mecca violence to inflame passions and destabilise the region.

He said U.S. officials abroad were taking appropriate measures against potential attacks, but would not discuss them.

The comments appeared to reflect U.S. fears of a spate of Iranian-inspired attacks against U.S. targets and the Gulf states, where the majority of people are Sunnis.

But officials here will not discuss what Washington would do in retaliation if such attacks took place.

The analysts said they had little doubt Tehran hardliners ordered the demonstrations in Mecca last Friday, in which Saudi authorities said 402 people were killed, 275 of them Iranians. Tehran claimed 200 Iranians were killed or missing.

That violence, and the explosion of four bombs on Aug. 3 in Tunisia where pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalists were the object of a police crackdown, could be pointers to the future, they said.

"This could be a really important juncture. Passions have to be cooled down very quickly, or anything could happen," said Robin Wright of the private Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

She said the dominance of hardliners in Tehran was illustrated by Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a

radical pragmatist, issuing belligerent statements only days after

saying publicly there were ways to improve relations with the outside world.

"For the short term, at least, people like Rafsanjani cannot say anything moderate," she said. "That means that in the short term, the door is closed decisively on diplomatic efforts to end the war."

Iranian hardliners like President Ali Khamenei condemned last month's U.N. ceasefire order but did not reject it formally, keeping hopes alive that diplomacy had a chance.

"Diplomacy, at this point, is not very important. The only thing that might come out of this is that the current atmosphere would create a climate for a second (U.N.) resolution," said Hunter.

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But officials here will not discuss what Washington would do in retaliation if such attacks took place.

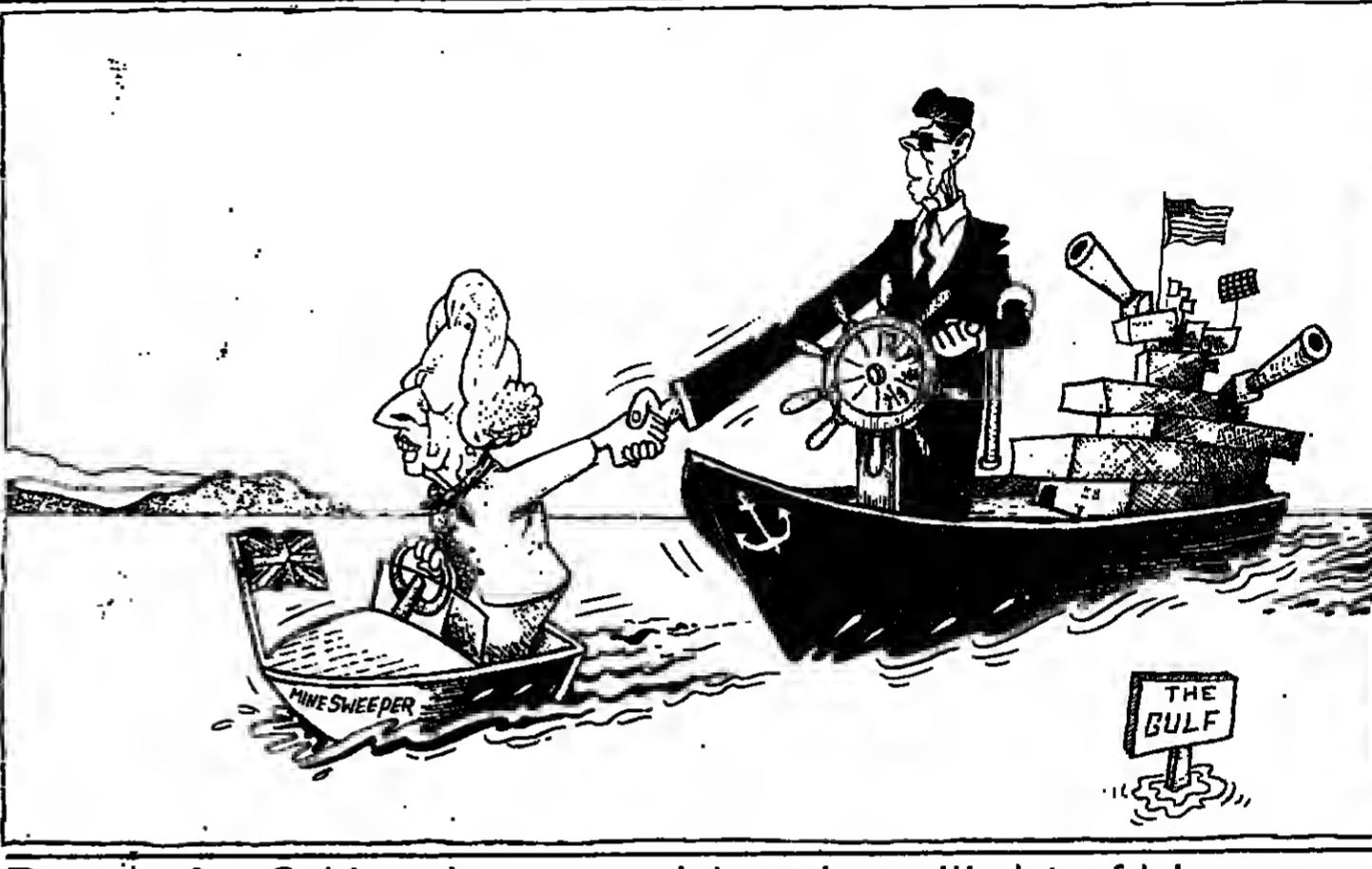
The analysts said they had little doubt Tehran hardliners ordered the demonstrations in Mecca last Friday, in which Saudi authorities said 402 people were killed, 275 of them Iranians. Tehran claimed 200 Iranians were killed or missing.

That violence, and the explosion of four bombs on Aug. 3 in Tunisia where pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalists were the object of a police crackdown, could be pointers to the future, they said.

"This could be a really important juncture. Passions have to be cooled down very quickly, or anything could happen," said Robin Wright of the private Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

She said the dominance of hardliners in Tehran was illustrated by Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a

radical pragmatist, issuing belligerent statements only days after



Peace for Sri Lankan president in twilight of his years

By Jose Katigbak
Reuter

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's octogenarian president may have ensured peace in his lifetime but opponents question if it will last beyond that.

Junius Jayewardene who celebrates his 81st birthday on Sept. 17, capped nearly 50 years in politics with his most audacious gamble: an agreement with India ending four years of fighting between minority Tamils and Sinhalese.

The accord calls for the merger into a single administrative unit of Tamil-dominated northern province with the eastern province where Tamils are outnumbered by Sinhalese and Muslims. A referendum is to be held in the eastern province after a year to ratify the merger.

Jayewardene's opponents describe the pact with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as "a complete sell-out." His supporters think he would be held responsible for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Jayewardene has said he would campaign actively to persuade people in the east to vote against the merger, adding: "I have no doubt about the results of the referendum."

Diplomats said that despite his



optimism, there was some uncertainty about the outcome of the vote and this, added to Sinhalese pressure on the "partition" of the island, placed heavy strains on long-term prospects for peace.

At least 74 people were killed in Colombo and other areas in the south in protest riots said by the government to have been instigated by the banned Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front, which draws its strength from Sinhalese chauvinists.

To guard against similar outbursts the government has rede-

ployed its forces in the south, virtually abdicating its military role in the north and east to Indian troops sent to the island as part of the peace agreement.

JVP launched an abortive attempt to topple the government of Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike in 1971 and about 10,000 people were killed. It was held responsible for anti-Tamil riots that swept the island in July 1983.

Police report that in the past 10 days JVP militants have stolen about 140 guns in raids on shops and isolated police outposts.

Jayewardene is mending fences with government backbenchers to ensure the 172-seat parliament ratifies the peace accord by the necessary two-thirds majority.

His United National Party holds 144 seats but it is by no means sure all party members will support the agreement. Many are under pressure from the Buddhist clergy to reject it.

Buddhist monks oppose the accord on the grounds that it would harm Sinhalese interests as well as Buddhism, which enjoys special privileges here.

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel, one of the president's strongest supporters, is optimistic. "I have no doubt the government parliamentary group will back the peace accord almost to a

man," he told Reuters in an interview.

He admitted he was openly courting Buddhist monks and had suggested cheap travel arrangements be made to enable them to visit holy places in India.

Tamils, who have ethnic links with southern India, make up 13 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million population. Sinhalese comprise 74 per cent.

Another firm supporter of the accord, Lands Minister Gamini Dissanayake, said Sri Lanka had not yielded its sovereignty to India's interest. But it had to be aware of India's sensitivities

British newspapers profit from 'big bang' revolution

British national newspapers are about to enter their most profitable phase, thanks to their transformation into a modern high-tech industry. Raymond Snoddy explains how they caught up with the rest of the world.

LONDON — It is now a commonplace to describe the dramatic events of the past 18 months in the British newspaper industry — Mr. Rupert Murdoch moving all his titles to Wapping in a single weekend, the launch of new titles and the introduction of up-to-the-minute computer technology — as a revolution.

In fact it is more a catching-up with the rest of the world, including regional newspapers in the U.K., than a revolution — a process that has been artificially compressed into such a short period because the barriers holding back change had proved so effective in the past.

Yet whatever it is called, the scale of transformation in the affairs of Britain's national newspaper industry is difficult to exaggerate.

Ancient printing equipment that would fit naturally into a museum of printing is at last being replaced. Traditional managing levels and restrictive practices are on the way out, in most cases by agreement between unions and management, after the defeat of the bitter strike by sacked print workers against Mr. Murdoch's News International.

Perhaps even more significant for the future is the transformation in profits now under way.

British national newspapers are increasingly becoming a business rather than a playground of peers or those who would like to become peers.

By next year the national newspaper proprietors will have invested more than £1 billion (£1.61 million) in new equipment and redundancy payments and more than 13,500 job cuts have either taken place or been announced from a total workforce of 30,000.

The result, according to a recent study by Mr. Derek Terrington, publishing analyst of stockbrokers Phillips & Drew, is that by 1988 national newspapers will have revenues of £1.65 billion and pre-tax profits of £205 million. This compares with revenue of £1.4 billion in 1985 and pre-tax profits of £50 million.

Further savings over the next 18 months might bring profit mar-

gins up to 15 per cent.

"This figure is less than exotic, but it is five times what the industry is used to and brings national newspapers up to the levels of the best-managed regional newspapers," Mr. Terrington argues.

All the signs are that publishers, once the short-term investment costs are absorbed, are likely to generate substantial surpluses which will be used for expansion and diversification.

In retrospect, events outside the premises of a small publisher of free newspapers in the north of England in November 1983 were of critical importance.

With the help of new laws against secondary picketing, Mr. Eddie Shah took on the power of the print union, the National Graphical Association, and won. The television reports of the violence on the picket lines turned Mr. Shah almost overnight into a nationally known figure.

He was able to use that fame to raise money for Today, the revolutionary new colour tabloid that would use all the latest technology to create a new low-cost national newspaper. Today would end what many saw as the collusion between management and unions which kept the cost of producing newspapers up, effectively keeping out new entrants.

"We're going after an industry that's just ripe to be taken, it just needs one guy," said Mr. Shah with his customary self-confidence.

It was not to be. Today, the independent newspaper that was supposed to shake Fleet Street to its roots, bad in fact to be rescued from collapse by a Fleet Street proprietor, Mr. Tiny Rowland of Lonrho.

At the end of last month (June) Today changed hands again, this time bought by Mr. Murdoch for £38 million despite estimates that by 1988 national newspapers will have revenues of £1.65 billion and pre-tax profits of £205 million. This compares with revenue of £1.4 billion in 1985 and pre-tax profits of £50 million.

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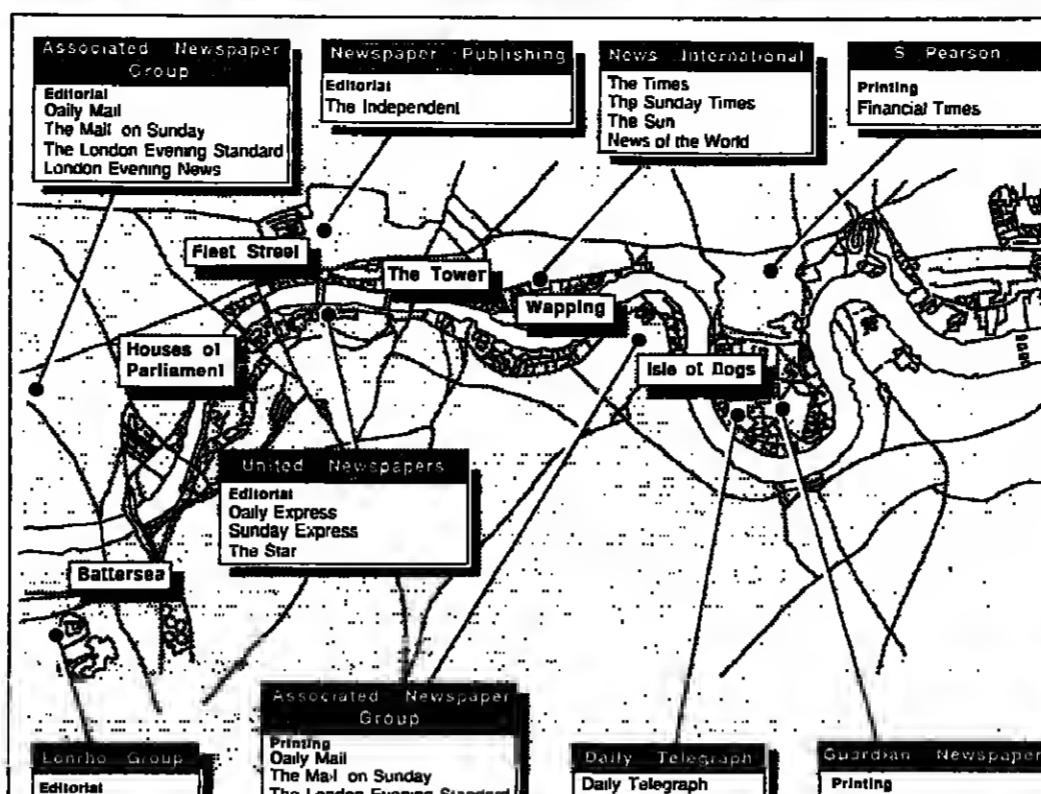
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The Newspaper Industry

They have managed to carve out a niche for themselves at the top of the market and win journalistic awards. Although circulation is now about 320,000 the paper is not likely to break even until next spring.

Sunday Sport, a down-market tabloid set up with capital of £150,000, has also carved out a niche for itself with the help of pictures of naked ladies and is said to be profitable on a circulation of 500,000.

Other dramatic changes include the exodus from Fleet Street. Partly because of cramped conditions and the profits to be made from selling existing plants for development many papers, including the Financial Times, are building modern printing plants in London's Docklands. Others have opted for a series of new plants around the country or moved to contract printing.

The appearance of British newspapers is being transformed by the improved reproduction and after initial doubts proprietors are increasingly seeing colour as a competitive weapon in the intense battles for circulation.

at the popular end of the market. Mr. Murdoch is already introducing colour into the News of the World and Mr. Maxwell has announced that he too is planning to print his titles in colour.

Mr. Maxwell is also offering advertisers and promoters the opportunity to insert preprinted material in his newspapers from the end of this year. A multimillion pound order for sophisticated inserting equipment has been placed with Ferag of Switzerland for his 21 new presses. The equipment inserts advertising material — or regional supplements — at the same speed as the presses turn.

The hope is that inserting will prove a significant competitor to direct mail and provide a new stream of revenue for daily newspapers.

National newspapers may have been capturing the headlines but there have also been remarkable changes in the local and regional newspaper industry.

Regional newspapers point out with justice it was they, rather than Fleet Street who have been the pioneers in everything from

use of computer technology and colour to the introduction of direct input.

This month the 100th direct input agreement was signed and the Newspaper Society which represents regional and local publishers believes the total could be 150 before the year is out.

The first agreement at the Wolverhampton Express and Star caused a furore in the industry. The 100th at the Southport Visiter slipped quietly into place.

Free newspapers have succeeded in carving a major slice of the market for themselves, both free and paid-for local newspapers are enjoying buoyant trading conditions although higher newsprint prices are pushing up costs.

Last year regional press advertising rose by 10 per cent to £1.1 billion and the advertising Association expects real growth of 10 per cent this year.

Despite the proliferation of electronic media the process of renewal in the British newspaper industry should help to ensure that its future is secure — Financial Times feature.

Unsavoury reliance

Israel and Latin America: The Military Connection
by Bishara Bahbah
Macmillan, London with the Institute for Palestine Studies, 1986, £27.50

Israel's Global Reach: arms sales as diplomacy
by Aaron S. Klieman
Pergamon and Brassey's, London, 1985, £17.00

By Yezid Sayigh

ISRAELI arms export policy has attracted increasing attention since 1980. This has been due in part to the rapid growth of sales volume to well over \$1 billion annually, and in part to the appearance of Israeli products in the bands of unsavoury dictatorships and racist regimes around the Third World. Bahbah and Klieman, a Palestinian and an Israeli, discuss this traffic in arms and its primary motivations.

Bahbah defines several aspects that make Israeli military exports unique among the ten larger world arms suppliers. One is the country's disproportionate reliance on arms sales, which are crucial to the well-being of the economy. By underpinning the defence industry as a whole, exports are also vital to Israeli "security." A second aspect is that Israel provides advisors and varied forms of technical assistance and services to its clients, not just the hardware. This establishes direct, personalised contacts with the military in the importing countries and provides the grounds for long-term influence. Thirdly, Israeli export policy dovetails with American regional priorities, supplying clients whom the U.S. is unable to equip openly, for internal and external political reasons. Bahbah also notes that Israeli attempts to acquire the latest arms technology and greater sophistication in military products have made it more dependent on U.S. assistance and thus more likely to sell weapons to American clients in a quid pro quo arrangement.

Bahbah has chosen Israel's connections with Latin America as his case history. From Guatemala to Argentina (under the former junta), and passing through Honduras, Salvador, and Somoza's Nicaragua among other, Israeli weapons and military equipment (helmets, radios, jeeps) have equipped the forces of regimes "at war with their own people." Israeli advisors have taught counter-insurgency tactics and have supervised the establishment of "pacified" zones where the rural population has been herded into "strategic ham-

lets" that are supposed to emulate the kibbutz. Throughout the southern continent, Israel has sold arms wherever the American eagle has feared to tread.

Although it in effect contains an indictment of Israeli policy, Bahbah's book is by no means polemical. It is written in cool, dispassionate style that greatly facilitates reading and comprehension. The structure is simple: after summarising the main patterns and features of Israeli arms production and exports, the author reviews four case studies in Central and South America. He focusses on the local conflicts, both inter- and intra-state, that provide the incentives for arms procurement and the opportunity for Israeli inroads. Underlying the analysis is the theme of converging U.S.-Israeli interests and policies. Yet Bahbah concludes that Israeli advances in the continent have peaked, and the PLO's recent modest gains there may well be proof of this.

Klieman's book arouses strongly mixed feelings. On the one hand, it is a solid and exhaustive account of the development of the Israeli defence industry and the mechanics and considerations of arms export policy. On the other, it overlooks many of the deeper connections and implications of the history he describes. At times the text reads like an apology for Israeli export policy, at others like an advertisement brochure for military products. In fairness, Klieman has written a wider study than Bahbah's, and so has taken on a greater task, but the questions raised seem more numerous than those answered.

What is most disturbing is that Klieman ties arms sales to Israel's "extraordinary sensitivity" to the welfare of Jews everywhere. To use this "moral" argument to justify exports to dictators and racists only threatens Jews, and in any case is not borne out by the experience of Jews imprisoned by Argentinian generals supplied with Israeli guns. The ultimate message is that Israel's "security" is imperative — regional threats and systemic challenges necessitate and justify arms sales — Middle East International. London.

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CHEESE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



Zairean women cruise into All Africa Games basketball finals

Nigerian Imoh runs world's fastest 100 m breaking Smith's 1983 record

NAIROBI (R) — African champions Zaire, showing superior strength and deadly shooting skills, overwhelmed Senegal 83-54 Saturday to win a place in the final of the Fourth All Africa Games women's basketball tournament.

Senegal, the games defending champions, could not hold the powerful Zaireans who had swept to a 38-27 lead at half time.

Zaire will meet either Mozambique or Angola in the final on Tuesday. The two Portuguese-speaking nations, of which the energetic Mozambican women have shown the best form so far, will battle it out Sunday for a place in the final.

The experienced Zairean women, urged on by their whooping supporters, were in unstoppable form and steam-rollered the younger Senegalese side. They bombarded their opponents' basket with pinpoint accuracy and defended their own with vigour.

Zaire's Longana Kamitanga was her side's top scorer with 26 points while playmaker Kamanga Kasala impressed with her hard

running and decisive distribution.

In the first men's semi-final later Saturday, the strong Angolan side, who notched up three convincing victories in the first round, was scheduled to meet host team Kenya. Kenyan players were involved in an unruly brawl with their Somalian opponents Friday night in a first round match which Kenya won 94-64.

The other two men's semi-finalists are Ivory Coast and Senegal who meet Sunday.

In the men's handball competition, Cameroun meet Congo in the first semi-final Sunday, while defending All Africa Games champions Algeria take on Egypt in the other semi-final.

Women's African handball

champions Ivory Coast, who convincingly beat defending games champions Algeria 22-9 on Friday night, meet Senegal in the semi-final on Sunday.

The other women's semi-final is between Congo and Cameroun.

In the volleyball competition, experts were predicting a men's final next Tuesday pitting the strong Nigerians against Cameroun, whose form in the first round amazed their rivals.

Nigeria cruised through pool B without dropping a set against Zambia. Senegal and Madagascar, who qualified for Monday's semi-finals in second place.

Cameroun, playing in the tough A pool, disposed of Kenya and Egypt before beating the fancied Algerians in a thrilling five-setter. Algeria placed second and meet Nigeria in the semi-final.

The women's event, reduced by Algeria's last-minute decision not to send their off-form team, saw hosts Kenya raise their game to win all their matches in pool A. Egypt qualified second.

In pool B Mauritius finished top, ahead of Ghana, and officials expect a Kenya-Egypt final. The Kenyans beat the Egyptians

three sets to two in their pool clash.

Saturday was a rest day in the handball and volleyball events.

On the hockey field Kenya moved to the top of the seven-nation round-robin table at least temporarily after smashing Tanzania 10-0.

The Kenyans have seven points from four matches, one more than Egypt and two clear of Zimbabwe who were playing each other Saturday afternoon.

The three teams are fighting not only for the Africa Games gold medal but also for the right to represent Africa in the Seoul Olympics next year.

Nigerian Chidi Imoh ran the world's fastest 100 metres Saturday in a time of 9.92 seconds, officials at the All Africa Games said. But they said the wind, measured provisionally at 4.4 metres per second meant his time could not immediately be ratified as a world record.

Calvin Smith of the United States has held the world record of 9.93 seconds since 1983.

Brazil's choices limited for Pan Am soccer tie opening

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Favourites Brazil may have limited options for naming a team when they face Canada in their opening soccer match of the 10th Pan American Games on Sunday as only 13 of their 18-man squad have arrived.

Brazil games press officer Pedro Barros Silva said Friday the other five players are expected next week, hinting that coach Carlos Alberto Silva may have to field the best possible 11 and put the other two available players on the substitutes bench.

Flamengo's Ze Carlos and Jorginho and Vasco da Gama's Romario, Mazine and Regis were not released by the powerful Rio de Janeiro clubs because they are involved in the state league

finals, Barrios Silva said.

He said they will be replaced by other players who should be here in time for Brazil's other qualifying Group B matches against Cuba on Thursday and Chile the following Sunday.

Brazil have only one goalkeeper in Indianapolis, Taffarel, as well as defenders Geraldao, Nelson, Ricardo Rocha, Ricardo II, midfielders Douglas, Rai, Luiz Carlos, Pita and Edu and forwards Evarir, Joao Paulo and Waldo.

Brazil, some of whose players were in the squad that reached the semifinals of the South American Cup last month, are favourites to face reigning world champions Argentina in the final of the 12-team tournament.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Hearns drops light-heavyweight crown

MEXICO CITY (R) — Thomas 'Hitman' Hearns has given up his WBC light-heavyweight crown to free himself to fight for an unprecedented fourth title, the World Boxing Council (WBC) has said. The WBC said it had granted Hearns' request to meet Juan D. Roldan of Argentina for the middleweight title which has been vacant since Sugar Ray Leonard relinquished it on June 8. If Hearns beat Roldan he would become the first fighter to have held titles in four different categories. In addition to the light-heavyweight crown, he has been World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight and WBC super-welterweight champion. The Hearns-Roldan fight is scheduled for October 29 although a venue has yet to be set, the WBC said. Hearns, who became only the second man to rise from welterweight to hold a light-heavyweight crown when he beat Dennis Andrews of Britain in Detroit last March, has won 44 of his 46 fights, 37 of them inside the distance.

Player fined after 'hard man' boast

LONDON (R) — A player who boasted in a newspaper article of being "the hardest man in football" was fined a record £5,000 (\$7,800) by the English Football Association (F.A.) on Friday for bringing the game into disrepute. Midfielder Mick Kennedy, who plays for Portsmouth — promoted this season to the First Division — accused other players of being "chicken" in two articles for the mass-circulation Sun Newspaper last Friday, the F.A. said. The first article began: "They call me the hardest man in football and I'm proud of that reputation." Les Mackay, chairman of the F.A. disciplinary panel which fined Kennedy, said: "It was one of the worst articles that has ever appeared in the press. We do not take kindly to articles of that nature. It is not good for the game." The fine is the most severe imposed on an individual by the F.A. Previously, the largest sum was the £1,500 (\$2,400) fine which Mark Falco, then with Tottenham, had to pay for making gestures to the crowd in May last year.

Indulgence takes early lead in Fastnet

COWES, England (R) — Britain's top yacht Indulgence moved into an early lead as the Admiral's Cup fleet set sail from the Isle of Wight in the 605-mile Fastnet Race Saturday. The race, from Cowes to the Fastnet Rock on the southern tip of Ireland and back to Plymouth in western England, opened in good conditions with westerly winds gusting 14 knots, dropping to 12. Indulgence, followed by Denmark's Original Beckmann Plettjerner, established a good lead, tacking in the strongest tides along the shore of the island off England's south coast. Austria's Pinta Lay third in the early stages, followed by Corum of France, West Germany's Diva and the U.S. boat Sidewinder. The confident New Zealand team, leading Britain by 109 points in the series and seeking their first Fastnet win, were also well placed, with Kiwi just behind the leaders and propaganda involved in a close race with Britain's Jamarella. With stiff winds the first yacht in the 190-strong fleet should reach the Fastnet Rock early on Tuesday and return to Plymouth on Wednesday morning.

Mansell celebrates birthday with seventh pole of season

BUDAPEST (Agencies) — British Nigel Mansell celebrated his 33rd birthday Saturday by securing his seventh pole position of the season for Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix, then predicted a tough and highly competitive race.

In warm sunshine and in front of a large and appreciative crowd, Mansell spun off and was unable to improve on his pacesetting time of one minute 28.047 seconds Friday.

But the Williams driver retained the prime starting position as only four of the top 15 drivers were able to record improved lap times.

Mansell said: "This is the sort of track we call a moving target. It changes all the time. One minute it is slow and the next it is quick again."

"I had inconsistent braking twice which took me off the track. Luckily, there was no damage. It was not very pleasant, but I am okay."

"I think it will be an incredibly close race with the Ferraris coming good and McLaren and Lotus in there too."

He said it would be vital for the drivers to stay on the racing line because dust was causing problems with grip off the line.

Mansell was presented with some champagne and a cake by the organisers following the practice session, but he wanted more.

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Pitcher Howe keen on putting drug problem behind him

BALTIMORE (AP) — Steve Howe has overcome a drug problem to reach the major leagues again, and now he'd like to be known only as a pitcher.

"I've some choices to make, and one of them is not to be a sideshow," Howe said Friday night after his successful debut with the Texas Rangers.

The 29-year-old left-handed reliever, in his first major league appearance since Sept. 10, 1985, allowed no runs and one hit in two innings as the Rangers dropped a 9-2 decision to the Baltimore Orioles.

"I'm going to make myself be one of the guys ... I don't care what other people do," Howe said.

Watched by guest of honour Pele, England captain Bryan Robson opened the scoring with a

World XI goes down 3-0 to League XI with lacklustre performance from Maradona

LONDON (R) — Diego Maradona, who was tempted along by the promise of further riches, failed to enhance his reputation at a gathering of soccer glitterati at Wembley Saturday.

Maradona was paid a reported £1,000 (\$1,600) a minute to represent the World XI — the second of the World against an English first division selection in a game to mark the 100th anniversary of the Formation of the Football League.

But the Argentine, who was loudly booed throughout by the 61,000 crowd who had obviously not forgotten the infamous "hand of God" incident during the World Cup in Mexico last summer, never imposed his authority as the League XI strolled to a 3-0 victory.

"I'm going to make myself be one of the guys ... I don't care what other people do," Howe said.

Watched by guest of honour Pele, England captain Bryan Robson opened the scoring with a

players on duty a kick of the ball in the second 45 minutes.

That did not match the rhythm of the game and although there were some flashes of breathtaking skills from Brazilian Duo Jose and Celso, and the now retired Michel Platini and West German Thomas Berthold, the game will be remembered only for its curiosity value.

Maradona gave poor value for money, but he remains the sport's most exciting player and even at half-price his every touch suggests anything is possible.

The Argentine did not manage a shot or header on goal, but the weight and pace of his passes opened up the League defence on several occasions and it was from one of his deft chips that Spanish fullback Julio Alberto went closest to scoring for the World XI in the dying seconds.

Di Napoli strikes gold for Italy

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — Italy's Gennaro di Napoli sprinted home in 3:53.10 to lift his country's first ever 1,500-metre title at the European Junior Track and Field Championships Friday.

Before the game, Howe said he had been clean since July 15 of last year, calling that his "sobriety date."

"That's when I felt real good about myself, when I personally believed my life was turned around," he said.

Since his last suspension, when he was with San Jose of the class A California league last year, Howe has pitched in Japan and Mexico and claims to have been tested for drugs some 200 times.

When the Rangers decided to bring Howe up from Oklahoma City, less than a month after they signed him, club officials met with commissioner Peter Uebelroth to seek his blessing.

While the commissioner did not issue a statement of approval, neither did he object, and the Rangers proceeded with their plans.

Asked how he would react if fans became suspicious following a poor outing, Howe said:

"Fans are fans. The ones who give you the hardest time are those who have had 12 beers and don't even know what park they're in."

Howe said too much has been made of his physical problem, and expressed a preference that questions on the subject soon be cast aside.

"I'm just a player who had a substance abuse problem, who's bone back," he said. "Let me go on with my life."

Howe, who threw 15 strikes and five balls in his return, said he was glad he didn't have to wait long to see action.

"He threw well," Texas manager Bobby Valentine said. "He hit over the plate. I don't know if he's the dominant strikeout pitcher he was before. But from the reports, and from talking to him, I know he liked to throw the ball over the plate and go after the hitters."

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World XI goes down 3-0 to League XI with lacklustre performance from Maradona

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Such was the freedom afforded

Reagan hails lowest unemployment

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. civilian unemployment rate fell to six per cent in July, the government reported Friday, and President Reagan said the figure shows the U.S. economy is performing well without danger of inflation.

The jobless rate was the lowest of the Reagan administration and was down from 6.1 per cent in June.

Non-farm jobs increased 304,000 in July, far exceeding market expectations, the Labour Department said.

"These figures indicate the economy is performing well in 1987 and performed even better than thought during the preceding three years," President Reagan said in a brief statement to reporters at the White House.

"Our trade balance is better, employment is growing, unemployment is falling and, after a temporary increase earlier this year, inflation is returning to the four per cent range that we've during most of this expansion," President Reagan said. "All of this is excellent news for the American people and for the American economy."

However, President Reagan also issued a warning. "Deficit spending, tax increases and protectionism threaten our hard-won prosperity," he said.

He said continued economic expansion justified the policies he has pursued and his recent warnings to Congress to heed his advice.

President Reagan called for support for his so-called "econo-

mic bill of rights," which includes a proposed constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget and authority for the president to veto individual spending items in omnibus congressional spending bills.

The last time the unemploy-

ment rate was as low as six per cent in December 1979, the Labour Department said.

The July decline and the surge

in non-farm employment signal-

led that the third quarters started

with relatively robust economic

growth, financial analysts said.

The analysts said the July data further confirmed that the American economy is outperforming growth in most other leading industrial countries and fueling demand for the U.S. currency.

On Thursday, the White House

rolled back growth estimates for

the economy but said it would

continue to expand through 1988

and that no recession was in sight.

Mr. Beryl Sprinkel, chairman

of the president's Council of Eco-

nomic Advisors, said the adminis-

tration had revised slightly down-

ward its growth projection for

next year to 3.5 per cent from 3.7

per cent estimated in January.

He also said the administration

was forecasting higher inflation

and interest rates in 1987 and

1988 than it had previously pre-

dicted.

The inflation rate, as measured

by consumer price rises, will be

4.8 per cent this year and 4.4 per

cent in 1988, compared to earlier

estimates of 3.8 and 3.6, respec-

tively, he said.

"Intervention came along and

the dollar went higher," said one

Price of precious metals slide

as dollar posts 7-month high

dealer.

The unexpected large boost in U.S. employment for July helped send the dollar to its highest levels in seven months Friday, prompting a precipitous slide in silver and gold prices.

The stock market, which car-

ried in the day hit the 2,600 level

for the first time, ended the week

on an anti-climatic note as a bout

of late afternoon profit-taking

sent the Dow Jones industrial

average closing 2.23 points below

Thursday's record close to 2,592.

Volume swelled to 214 million

from 192 million.

Also supporting the dollar were nagging worries over the

possibility of a renewed flare-up in

the Middle East, which prompted

nervous investors to repurchase

dollar positions they had pre-

viously sold before leaving for the

weekend.

The dollar climbed to its high-

est levels against the West Ger-

man mark since it closed at

\$19.650 marks Jan. 12, finishing

the day at 1.8925 marks, a decline

of over \$1.50 for the week.

Brent North Sea oil, the interna-

tional benchmark grade, was at

\$19.55 barrel, down 15 cents from

Thursday, as traders continued to

take profits.

Although the drop in unem-

ployment initially sent the U.S.

treasury bond market lower, it

recovered as precious metals and

oil prices began to slide, reducing

fears of inflation.

An inflationary environment

heightens the prospects of higher

interest rates, which in turn mean

lower bond prices.

The key 30-year bond ended at

\$98.9/32, compared with \$97.27/

32 at Thursday's close as the yield

fell to 8.91 per cent from 8.96 per

cent at Thursday's close.

10.5 per cent in July.

Bread prices had soared by

more than 100 per cent since

Aug. 1, causing a wave of protest

from state-supervised media. The

official trade union organisation

called on the communist govern-

ment to "protect the living stan-

dards of the working people."

The state news agency Tanjug

said the gas price hike was

needed because of sharp depre-

cation of the Yugoslav dinar

against the U.S. dollar. Imports

that must be paid for in dollars

account for 80 per cent of Yugos-

lavia's crude oil consumption.

The move meant the price of a

litre of high-octane gasoline is

now 460 dinars (61 cents), up

from 420 dinars (56 cents). Gas

prices were last increased on June

12, and before that on May 20,

contributing to an annual infla-

tion rate that officially touched

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Colombo frees 300 Tamils

Jayewardene: India will bring peace and leave

COLOMBO (R) — Hundred of suspected Tamil guerrillas hugged and kissed each other when they were freed from jails and put on a boat for home in northern Sri Lanka Saturday.

"We will never get involved in terrorism again," said 31-year-old Velunay Mulugan, father of three children, as he boarded an Indian Navy ship after spending 16 months at a detention camp in southern Sri Lanka.

Police Superintendent A. Weeraratne speaking by telephone from the port of Galle said the 300 Tamils were the first of nearly 4,000 prisoners it was releasing in line with last week's peace accord aimed at ending the guerrilla war for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the island.

Military officials said the handover of weapons by guerrillas was proceeding slowly in the Tamil-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula but no arms had been handed over in eastern province.

In terms of the accord signed last week by President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the northern and eastern provinces will merge into a single administrative council.

A government official at eastern Batticaloa district said he expected the handover to take place on Sunday or on Monday.

"The area's rebel leaders who

went to the peninsula early this week are expected this evening. Arrangements to handover their weapons would be discussed after their return," he said.

Tamil guerrillas began surrendering their arms on Wednesday in Jaffna to Indian peace-keeping troops.

A spokeswoman for the Indian High Commission (embassy) said they were investigating a report that civil guards fired on a crowd in the eastern town of Trincomalee Friday killing one person and wounding four others.

Tamil sources said the crowd including armed rebels were shouting slogans in support of the peace pact.

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said Friday that the government needed about 15 billion rupees (\$515 million) "for reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation" following the end of four years of Tamil-Sinhalese clashes.

Mr. De Mel told a news conference that, with war at an end, he would discuss with the Defence Ministry a phased reduction of defence expenditure over a three-year period.

This year 12 billion rupees

(\$450 million), about 17 per cent of the national budget, has been earmarked for defence spending.

Mr. De Mel said Sri Lanka needed the 15 billion rupees in grants or soft loans and said part of the foreign aid received would be used to resettle some 100,000 people displaced by the war.

The government has said people displaced from the northern and eastern provinces who wished to resettle there would be given financial help.

Mr. De Mel said aid group countries helping Sri Lanka had agreed to hold a special meeting in September to consider the government request for special assistance.

Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene said he was trusting his friend Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to bring peace quickly to his island nation and remove Indian peacekeeping forces in a week, the New York Times said Saturday.

In an interview with the newspaper, Mr. Jayewardene said "we are talking in terms of Aug. 15" for the withdrawal from Sri Lanka of more than 5,000 Indian troops who are enforcing a ceasefire in Sri Lanka's four-year-old ethnic conflict.

"That may have to be extended," he was quoted as saying. But he was confident all Indian soldiers would be out long before the end of the year, according to the article.

"You never know these big powers. They chop and change. You can't trust anybody," the president was quoted as saying.

Mr. Jayewardene said he had placed his entire trust in his personal relationship with Mr. Gandhi to guarantee peace in Sri Lanka, where minority Tamil rebels have been fighting the majority Sinhalese, the report said.

"I believe in personal friendships, foreign policy friendships," the president said.

The article reported that Mr. Jayewardene said it was possible that not all weapons would be surrendered.

In that case, Indian and Sri Lankan troops would have to search for them.

Mr. Jayewardene said Sri Lanka must accept the regional domination of India, which has its own Tamil population in the south. "We can't stand up to any country. They can conquer us."

"I'm a practical man. It's a fact that India is the great power in this region, and that the world's powers have accepted that. America won't lift a finger to help me without asking India."

Mr. Jayewardene requested foreign aid last week. The United States responded by agreeing to send spare parts. Britain and the Soviet Union had not responded to requests, the New York Times reported.

"You never know these big powers. They chop and change. You can't trust anybody," the president was quoted as saying.

Over 110 feared dead in Indian bus plunge

NEW DELHI (R) — More than 110 people were feared killed when an overcrowded bus plunged into a canal in north India, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Most victims were believed to have drowned when the bus loaded with more than 130 passengers, crashed Friday off a bridge near Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh, 250 kilometres south east of New Delhi.

Rescuers have recovered 52 bodies so far, the news agency said.

Meanwhile nine people were swept away by a flooded river in eastern Bihar as torrential rains

lashed the state, forcing the evacuation of thousands of villagers, the United News of India (UNI) reported Friday.

The situation has improved in Assam state in the north east, the news agency said citing official reports.

After three weeks of monsoon flooding, most of the major rivers in Assam were below the danger mark. Monsoon floods have caused the deaths of more than 130 people in Assam, a tea-growing region.

In Bihar, nine people were carried away by swirling flood waters, bringing the death toll to 34 in India's poorest state.

Punjab village leader killed

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A village leader was shot to death by Sikh militants in Punjab state Saturday as police continued to hunt for Sikh gunmen suspected of slaughtering 18 people a day earlier.

The latest victim was identified by the United News of India (UNI) as Ujjal Singh, head of Bhadur village about 35 kilometres south east of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Mr. Singh, a Sikh, was shot to death as he slept, the news agency said.

The motive for the slaying was not immediately known, but Sikh extremists have targeted both Hindus and moderate Sikhs in their five-year guerrilla campaign for an independent Sikh land.

More than 630 people have

U.K. gains injunction on spy book radio broadcast

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — A judge on Saturday granted a temporary injunction requested by the British government to ban an Auckland radio station from broadcasting material from the controversial book *Spycatcher*.

A justice of the high court at Auckland granted the injunction against Radio Pacific, which remains in force until Tuesday, the New Zealand Press Association reported.

On Friday, Radio Pacific broadcast three current affairs reports about the book written by the former British secret agent Peter Wright, who now lives in Australia's island state of Tasmania, raising horses in retirement.

The reports, filed by Pacific's U.S. correspondent Jim Thompson, did not contain long readings from *Spycatcher* but described material it contained.

Radio Pacific Managing Director Derek Lowe said the injunction was futile because the station had not intended to broadcast more *Spycatcher* reports. "We ran the reports as news and current affairs items," he said.

In his book, Wright contends that his former boss at Britain's MI5 counterespionage agency, the late Sir Roger Hollis, was a Soviet agent. Other books and articles previously made the same allegation.

Spycatcher also describes the purported efforts of a group of MI5 agents to destabilise Britain's Labour governments of Sir Harold Wilson in the 1950s and 1970s.

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On Wednesday, the Reagan administration offered its own peace initiative dealing only with Nicaragua. The proposal called for suspending military aid to the contras if the Sandinistas agreed to a ceasefire, restored democratic processes and rejected Soviet Bloc military aid.

Mr. Reagan's proposal was not formally discussed at the president's meeting.

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguans welcomed the signing of a Central American peace agreement but voice doubts over whether the accord would work.

"It's about time too," said 40-year-old housewife Aida Solano, referring to the agreement.

"Let's hope it's for real," Mrs. Solano said.

"I doubt they will comply with any of these things," said 38-year-old travel agent Roberto Cuadra. "There is a lot of hatred in Nicaragua." Mr. Cuadra said, doubting Nicaragua's warring factions could ever be truly reconciled.

Mr. Cuadra said his only real hope was for an improvement in the country's war-battered economy.

Many Nicaraguans expressed the view that no peace plan could work unless backed by the White House, which regards the Sandinistas as a threat to U.S. security interests because of their friendly ties to the Soviet Union and Cuba.

"The problem here is not among Central Americans," said Margaret Gurdian, a 32-year-old employee at the Ministry of Culture. "The trouble is the United States which sends the money to the contras."

In Washington, the Reagan administration reacted cautiously Friday to the peace agreement, saying it would have no comment until it analysed the text.

"We are anxiously awaiting details of this agreement," said White House spokesman Ronan Popaduk. "After we have received it and had a chance to analyse it we will be in a position to comment."

Meanwhile Secretary of State George Shultz, again rejecting one-on-one talks with Nicaragua, said Friday he is ready to travel to Central America if that will promote President Ronald

Reagan's peace initiative.

Mr. Shultz told a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that peace in Central America must be achieved by the nations of the region and that direct talks between Washington and Managua are not the right way to go about it."

"We aren't just stalling around, we are saying there is a regional problem," Mr. Shultz said.

He said that if it is "too tough" for Nicaragua's Sandinista government to sit at the same table with representatives of the U.S.-supported contra rebels, arrangements will have to be made to make sure the contras views are represented.

Mr. Shultz said that the idea of "bilateral" talks between the United States and Nicaragua was dropped during consultations with Congress at the suggestion of Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd, who he said urged that the two countries not be portrayed as the sole "arbiters" of the fate of Central America.

"So we struck it out," Mr. Shultz said.

He said the retention of the phrase "bilateral talks" in a copy of the plan retained by House Speaker Jim Wright was apparently inadvertent.

"Apparently the words didn't come out of both documents," Mr. Shultz said.

The whole idea, he said, is that "we don't want to push a Yankee solution."

Asked about reports he is prepared to travel to the region to promote the process, Mr. Shultz said nothing has been arranged but added, "we have plane, will travel."

Republican Senator Robert Kasten urged Mr. Shultz to make a firm commitment that the Sept. 30 deadline set by the peace plan will be a "fixed date" not to be extended under any circumstances.

Mr. Shultz declined.

He said that while a deadline is a useful tool because "it concentrates people's minds," and that while the Sept. 30 date is sensible from a number of standpoints, "I don't want to be put on a spot."

Saying the Sept. 30 date could never be extended under any circumstances is "going to extremes," Mr. Shultz said.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Kuwait to test airline personnel for AIDS

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Airways' pilots, hostesses and stewards are to be tested for the killer disease AIDS every six months. Health Minister Abdel Rahman Al Awadi told Al Watan newspaper they would be required to undergo the tests because "this group by the nature of their work are more exposed than others to the virus of this disease." He said the government would soon consider a law requiring AIDS tests for all people resident in Kuwait, where seven cases — all foreigners — have been reported.

Critic reviews performance that never was

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The San Francisco Chronicle removed a dance critic from his duties after he wrote a review of a San Francisco ballet performance that had been cancelled, the newspaper said. The review by Huwell Circuit, published in the newspaper on Monday morning, gave bad marks to the ballet *Bizet Pas De Deux*. The ballet was listed on the printed programme for a Sunday afternoon performance but was dropped because one of the principals, Ludmilla Lopukhova, was suffering from a sore back. In his review, Circuit said Lopukhova and other featured dancer, David McNaughton, "looked a tad bit dumpy ... Lopukhova's potato-drenched Russian training seemed less heavy than in the past." In a published announcement, Chronicle Executive Editor William German apologised to the newspaper's readers and the ballet company. He said Circuit told editors he believed he was ill when he reviewed the performance and could not clearly recall how he made the error. Circuit's new duties at the newspaper were not disclosed.

Owner of 'Castro' beard wins \$2,000

TOKYO (AP) — Trying to look like Cuban leader Fidel Castro won a 26-year-old Japanese man \$2,000 Saturday in a beard and mustache contest. The "Castro-style" beard of Hiruaki Deto of Kanagawa took top prize among 20 hairy finalists in Japan's annual hige (beard and mustache) No. 1 contest sponsored by a Japanese subsidiary of Schick, the American razor manufacturer. Deto said he had cultivated his bushy growth for eight years. Runners-up in the contest, which began with 403 contenders, were 42-year-old restaurant manager Mitokazu Arai, with a waxed "continental-style" mustache, and barber Karumi Ohnma, also 42, who sported a neatly trimmed circle of hair around his mouth. Both received \$350. Suenori Arashiyama, the winner among younger contestants with a thick "Sikh-style" mustache, took home \$350. The owner of 1986's best beard, a Sushi restaurant owner, was named the contest's first grand champion in judging among previous winners. The beard sponsored by Isao Hiroaka, 42, won him two round-trip tickets to Hong Kong. Schick, a division of Warner Lambert K.K., designated Saturday, the eighth day of the eighth month, Beard and Mustache Day, because the two strokes that make up the symbol for eight in Chinese and Japanese resemble a mustache.

Couple mauled by lion in Zimbabwe park

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — A lioness mauled a one-armed man and his wife while they slept in a tent in a northern game park, the chief game warden has said. Glen Tatham said the lion attacked Roy and Yvonne Jennings, both Zimbabwean in their early 50s, at Mana Pools Park bordering Zambia. Jennings, a mining engineer, heard an animal outside the tent about 3 a.m. Sunday, Tatham said, and thinking it was a Hyena, struck the side of the canvas tent to frighten it away. "The lioness ripped open the tent, grabbed him by his good arm and started to pull him away. Yvonne woke and grabbed the animal to save her husband. It bit her on the jaw and pulled clear of the tent," the game warden said. "By then Roy was on his feet and, although he was bleeding badly, he tried to attack the lioness. But it attacked him again, biting him on the back of the head and mauling his chest and back," Tatham said. The noise woke wardens who scared the lioness away with gunfire. A rhino conservation team that had invited the Jennings to the park later tracked and shot the cat. "The lioness was old and its teeth were worn down. That probably saved the Jennings' lives," Tatham said. The couple were treated on the scene before they were driven to a hospital 180 kilometres away. Afterward, they were flown to Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare, the Zimbabwe capital, where medical superintendent Dr. Doreen Sherman said they would recover.

British actor returning to TV role

LONDON (R) — British actor Edward Woodward has said he would resume his U.S. television role as the Equalizer despite a recent heart attack. The 57-year-old actor, who suffered the attack on July 29, said doctors have ordered him rest for the next six weeks and give up cigarettes. Woodward, who plays a tough-guy New York vigilante with a soft spot for the underdog, said he would shoot a new 20-episode season of the Equalizer in October. "The attack was very frightening. It was a pretty damned close thing and it makes you realise how close you are to saying to the world 'bye-bye for now,'" he told reporters at his home. "I feel as though I have been knocked down by a big truck but apart from that I'm feeling fine," he said.

'Mayflower Madam' sues literary agent

NEW YORK (R) — "Mayflower Madam" Sydney Biddle Barrows has filed a \$5 million suit alleging that a Manhattan literary agent has appropriated her name without her permission. She asked federal Judge Leonard Sand to bar the agent, Lawrence Brown, from further trademark infringement and violation of her rights. Barrows, a descendant of the Mayflower pilgrims, said in court documents that she gained national fame from her book "Mayflower Madam," which tells of the Manhattan prostitute ring she once ran. She said that despite using every measure available to protect her rights, Brown had "willfully persisted with his misconduct." She said that last month, Brown contacted an editor of the publisher Simon and Schuster and falsely claimed to be Barrows' literary agent and attempted to make a deal. She said the value of her name is incalculable and that her business "will be irreparably injured by the defendant's false representation."

Farmers turn scenic spot into quarry

PEKING (AP) — Hordes of farmers using explosives and hammers are turning a scenic stone forest in southern China into a quarry, seriously damaging the popular tourist spot, an official report said Monday. The farmers are excavating the beautiful stones in Lu'an county, Yunnan province, to build houses and sell for tablet making, with some pieces fetching 100 yuan (\$27). "Because of the Baroque destruction by the local farmers, some ancient beautiful stones have been lost forever," the report said. The scenic spot, 126 kilometres south east of the provincial capital of Kunming, covers more than 26,000 hectares (64,220 acres), of which about 80 hectares (198 acres) are open to tourists. The shape about 270 million years ago in the Paleozoic Era. Three groups of farmers used hammers and steel rods on June 4 to extract stones despite a posted sign that said "no quarrying," said the report, while other farmers blasted "picturesque stone pinnacles" along a nearby highway and carried them away by truck. In another incident, 20 groups of farmers destroyed peaks totalling 1,000 cubic metres, said the report, which quoted a China Youth Newspaper article.

GOREN BRIDGE